PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 56232.00017

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

- Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 are pending.
- Claims 3, 4, 6-18, 20-26, and 31-33 are rejected.

Applicants have removed "a fixing device having a fixing belt and a pressure belt" from the instant claims. This amendment overcomes the instant rejection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph. Since this is the only outstanding claim rejection, all claims are in condition for allowance.

Applicant have also corrected a typographical error in Claim 18, as shown above. Support for the corrected value is found in the specification, as filed, on page 121, two lines up from the bottom of the page. Therefore, this amendment adds no new matter.

Since all claims are in a condition for allowance, please issue a Notice of Allowability so stating. If I can be of any help, please contact me.

Date:

20 January 2004

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